

Message Text

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60

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 IO-14 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15

CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01

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R 041756Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9343

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USLO PEKING

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OTRA, UK, ELAB

SUBJECT: PRC REFUSES TO ADMIT "REVISIONIST" CP MINERS'
LEADER

REF: LONDON 3366

1. THE NUM DELEGATION TO THE FAR EAST IS NOW "UP IN THE AIR" ACCORDING TO AN NUM SOURCE BECAUSE THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA HAS THUS FAR REFUSED TO GRANT A VISA TO MICHAEL MCGAHEY, A LEADING BRITISH COMMUNIST AND NUM VICE PRESIDENT, WHOSE NAME WAS RECENTLY ADDED BY THE NUM TO THE DELEGATION. TWO NUM EXECUTIVE MEMBERS, ARTHUR SCARGILL AND PETER HEATHFIELD, COMPLETE THE DELEGATION WHICH PLANNED TO VISIT NORTH AND SOUTH VIETNAM, JAPAN AND THE PRC MAY 10-JUNE 7 (REFTEL).

2. ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCE, THE CHINESE WILL NOT ACCEPT MCGAHEY BECAUSE OF WHAT THEY ALLEGE TO BE HIS "REVISIONIST" POINT OF VIEW. TUC OFFICIALS AND NUM PRESIDENT JOE GORMLEY ARE MAKING REPRESENTATIONS TO THE PRC EMBASSY IN ORDER TO OBTAIN A REVERSAL OF ITS POSITION.

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WE WERE ALSO TOLD THAT THE NUM MAY CANCEL THE VISIT IF

MCGAHEY IS REFUSED PERMISSION TO ENTER PRC.

3. MCGAHEY, A MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE OF THE BRITISH COMMUNIST PARTY, IS ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL COMMUNIST TRADE UNION LEADERS IN THE UK. MCGAHEY PLAYED A LEADING ROLE IN THE MINERS' STRIKE WHICH PRECIPITATED THE STATE OF EMERGENCY IN THE UK AND WHICH ULTIMATELY LED TO THE CALLING OF ELECTIONS BY THE THEN PRIME MINISTER HEATH. (HEATH ON THE EVE OF THE ELECTION CHARGED MCGAHEY AND OTHER MILITANTS IN THE TRADE UNION AS HAVING A PRIMARY GOAL: THE BRINGING DOWN OF THE GOVERNMENT.)

3. MCGAHEY, A SCOTSMAN, IS ABOUT 48 YEARS OLD, THE SON OF A MINER WHO WAS A FOUNDER MEMBER OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY. HE WAS A PIT BOY AT THE AGE OF 14 WHEN HE BECAME ACTIVE IN THE YOUNG COMMUNIST LEAGUE. HE SERVED IN VARIOUS OFFICES OF THE NUM'S SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE, BECOMING ITS PRESIDENT IN 1967, AND ITS VICE PRESIDENT IN 1973, DEFEATING A RIGHT-WINGER. HE IS ONE OF THE TRIUMVIRATE WHICH DOMINATES THE NUM - ONE OF WHOM IS JOE GORMLEY - ITS PRESIDENT (A MODERATE) AND THE OTHER LAWRENCE DALY, AN EX-COMMUNIST, BUT WHO STILL REMAINS A LEFT-WINGER.

4. ARTHUR SCARGILL IS A 35-YEAR OLD MARXIST, WHO ROSE TO PROMINENCE LAST YEAR BY WINNING CONTROL OF THE 7,000 YORKSHIRE REGION MINERS, WHICH CONTAINS THE BIGGEST COALFIELD IN THE UK. SCARGILL IS REPORTED TO HAVE MADE HIS REPUTATION WITHIN THE UNION BY HIS USE OF THE SPECIAL TECHNIQUE OF MASS PICKETING IN THE 1972 COAL STRIKE WHICH HELPED THE NUM WIN THAT STRIKE. A MINER FROM THE AGE OF 15, LIKE HIS FATHER BEFORE HIM, HE WORKED HIS WAY THROUGH SEVERAL UNION OFFICES. HE WAS A YOUNG COMMUNIST LEAGUE MEMBER, AND REPORTEDLY HELD A COMMUNIST CARD MEMBERSHIP FOR MANY YEARS, BUT LEFT IN 1962 AND ULTIMATELY JOINED THE LABOR PARTY. HE STILL, REPORTEDLY, REMAINS A MARXIST IN OUTLOOK.

5. PETER HEATHFIELD IS ABOUT 45 YEARS OF AGE, A MEMBER OF THE NUM EXECUTIVE WHO CAME FROM THE NORTH DERBYSHIRE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COALFIELDS (HE WAS A FACE WORKER). HE IS CONSIDERED A LABOR LEFT-WINGER. HE IS REPORTED TO HAVE PARLIAMEN-TARY AMBITIONS OF HIS OWN.

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